

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of May 28, 2004. Claims 1- 75 are pending in the application, claims 55-72 have been withdrawn from consideration, and claims 73-75 have been added by this Amendment. Claims 1-54 were rejected under 35 USC Section 102(e) in view of Miller et al. (U.S. patent 6,197,604). In accordance with the details below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner is thanked for the telephonic interview of November 10, 2004 in which agreement was reached. Specifically, and in accordance with 37 CFR Section 133:

- Claims 1-54 were discussed
- The prior art discussed was Miller et al. (U.S. Patent 6,197,604)
- The principal proposed amendments were to include, in the independent claims being considered, the limitation that at least one of the wafer properties comprises within-wafer uniformity.
- The principal argument was that Miller does not disclose real-time measurements of wafer quality such as within-wafer uniformity.

Applicants have amended the independent claims (and added new claims 73-75) in accordance with the aforementioned interview.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. Applicants do not concede that the

cited prior art shows any of the elements recited in the claims (as amended or prior to any amendment). However, Applicants have provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

For all the reasons advanced above, reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this amendment, such extension is hereby requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed, including any fees required for an extension of time, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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